

Appln. No.:

Amdt. dated:

Preliminary Amendment

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1-4 (Cancelled)

5. (New) A surgical access device for permitting access to body tissue, which comprises:

an access member dimensioned for introduction into body tissue, the access member defining a longitudinal axis and having a longitudinal passage to permit introduction of an elongated object; and

a seal comprising a fabric material and being disposed within the access member, the seal having inner portions defining an aperture extending therethrough adapted to expand from an initial open condition to an expanded open condition upon passage of the elongated object whereby the inner portions of the seal engage the elongated object in substantial sealed relation therewith.

6. (New) The surgical access device according to claim 5 wherein the seal is a septum seal.

7. (New) The surgical access device according to claim 5 wherein the seal is elongated and extends along the longitudinal axis of the access member.

Appln. No.:
Amdt. dated:
Preliminary Amendment

8. (New) The surgical access device according to claim 7 wherein the seal defines a general hour glass configuration.

9. (New) The surgical access device according to claim 7 wherein the seal defines a general conical configuration.

10. (New) The surgical access device according to claim 5, wherein the seal includes an outer layer of an elastomeric material.

11. (New) A surgical seal assembly, which comprises:
a housing defining a longitudinal axis and having a throughbore; and
a seal member mounted within the housing, the seal member defining an opening in general longitudinal alignment with the throughbore of the housing and adapted to permit passage of an object, the seal member including a resilient material and a fabric material, at least the resilient material of the first element defining the opening adapted to resiliently contact the object in a substantially fluid tight manner.

12. (New) A surgical seal assembly according to claim 11 wherein the fabric material comprises a layer of fabric material.

13. (New) A surgical seal assembly according to claim 11 wherein the a layer of

Appln. No.:

Amdt. dated:

Preliminary Amendment

fabric material is disposed on each of opposed surfaces of the resilient material.

14. (New) A surgical seal assembly according to claim 11 wherein the resilient material comprises at least two layers of resilient material and the fabric material comprises at least one layer of fabric material at least partially disposed between the at least two layers of resilient material.

15. (New) A surgical seal assembly according to claim 11 wherein the seal member defines a general hour glass configuration.

16. (New) A surgical seal assembly according to claim 11 wherein the seal member defines a general conical configuration.

17. (New) A surgical seal assembly according to claim 11 wherein the seal member includes a peripheral portion adapted to deform in response to movement of the object in a direction transverse to the longitudinal axis.

18. (New) A method for performing a surgical procedure, comprising the steps of:

accessing an insufflated body cavity with an access device, the access device including an access member defining a throughbore and a seal, the seal comprising a fabric

Appln. No.:
Amdt. dated:
Preliminary Amendment
material;

introducing a surgical instrument through the throughbore of the access member and through the seal whereby inner seal portions of the seal form a substantially fluid tight relation with the surgical instrument; and

performing a surgical procedure within the body cavity with the surgical instrument.

19. (New) The method according to claim 18 wherein the seal defines a general hour glass configuration whereby, during the step of introducing, a constricted portion of the seal engages and forms the substantially fluid tight relation with the surgical instrument.

20. (New) The method according to claim 18 wherein the seal defines a general conical configuration whereby, during the step of introducing, an inner portion of the seal engages and forms the substantially fluid tight relation with the surgical instrument.

21. (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein the step of introducing includes introducing the surgical instrument so as to deform the fabric material.